

REMARKS

Claims 6-8 and 17-26 are pending. By this response, claims 6, 7, 17 and 22 are amended. Reconsideration and allowance based on the above amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 6-8 and 17-26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable in view of Bhattacharjya (US 5,809,213) and Chen et al. (US 6,141,450). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants note that independent claims 6, 7, 17, and 22 have been amended. Claim 6 and 7 now recite, *inter alia*, multidimensional lookup table producing means for producing a multidimensional lookup table by using said identifier to select a table development method suitable for color characteristics associated with a device producing the image data, the multidimensional lookup table being produced from a separate lookup table having only color characteristic points representing the supplied image data, the color characteristic points representing a relationship between a first point and a final point and any points in between the supplied image data and output image data; and multidimensional lookup table compression means for compressing said multidimensional lookup table.

Claim 17 recites, *inter alia*, a multidimensional lookup table producer for producing a multidimensional lookup table from a separate lookup table having only color characteristic points representing a supplied image data.

Claim 22 recites, *inter alia*, producing a multidimensional lookup table in a color characteristic description apparatus by using an identifier to select a table development method suitable for color characteristics associated with said digital camera, the multidimensional lookup table being produced from a

separate lookup table having only color characteristic points representing a supplied image data from the digital camera.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Bhattacharjya and Chen fail to teach the above claimed features.

Applicants remarks in the Response of April 30, 2007 with respect to Bhattacharjya are hereby incorporated by reference.

In the Office Action at page 3, second paragraph the Examiner states that "Bhattacharjya does not disclose a multidimensional lookup table producing means for producing a multidimensional lookup table having only color characteristic points; nor does Bhattacharjya disclose the restoring method for restoring the compressed multidimensional lookup table." The Examiner has provided Chen to remedy the deficiencies in Bhattacharjya.

Chen teaches a compression device in which a gray scale image is converted by a halftoning process into a binary image. A predicted image is obtained from the binary image using an algorithm and multitable lookup methods. The input gray scale image is then compared to the predicted image and the difference is encoded. This creates an enhanced layer. Inverse half toning is used to recover the original gray scale image from the distorted half tone images.

Although Chen teaches a compression device that uses a multitable lookup method and a restoring method, Chen does not teach the specific features recited in Applicants' claims. Specifically, Chen fails to teach or suggest obtaining a multidimensional lookup table from a separate lookup table which only includes the color characteristic points of the image data. Further, Chen fails to teach or suggest using an identifier in selection of a table development method used to obtain the multidimensional lookup table, which

is appropriate for the specific color characteristics produced by a device creating the image data.

Applicants respectfully submit that neither Bhattacharjya nor Chen teach the above claimed features. Therefore, the combination of Bhattacharjya and Chen fail to teach each and every feature of Applicants independent claims as required. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

For at least the above reasons Applicants respectfully submit Claims 6-8 and 17-26 are distinguishable over the cited art. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Chad J. Billings Reg. No. 48,917 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit

Application No. 09/944,598
Amendment dated October 5, 2007
Reply to Office Action of July 5, 2007

Docket No.: 0649-0798P

Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By



Chad J. Billings

Registration No.: 48,917

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Road, Suite 100 East

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

Attorney for Applicant